

BLACKBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for

1 9 4 4.

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DR. C. M. BRADLEY,
Medical Officer of Health.

A. W. CRAVEN,
Sanitary Inspector.



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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1944.

Chairman of the Council.	H. Ryden, Esq., J.P.
Vice-Chairman.	...	...	...	D. Smith, Esq., J.P.

COUNCILLORS.

<u>Parish.</u>					<u>Councillor.</u>
Balderstone.	...	...	...	...	J. Wright.
Billington..	...	...	...	...	B. I. Hacking.
Clayton-le-Dale...	...	...	...	...	J. H. Ainsworth.
Dinckley....	...	...	...	...	J. W. Brewer.
Eccleshill..	...	...	...	...	D. Smith, J.P.
Livesey. ...	...	...	...	...	A. C. Duckworth.
Mellor. ...	...	...	...	...	E. L. Heyworth, J.P.
Osbaldeston.	...	...	...	...	A. F. Walsh, (On active service)
Pleasington.	...	...	...	...	R. Yates.
Ramsgreave..	...	...	...	...	T. Abbott.
Salesbury...	...	...	...	...	W. H. Widders.
Tockholes...	...	...	...	...	Rev: W. Hodgkin.
Wilpshire...	...	...	...	...	H. Ryden, J.P.
Yate & Pickup Bank.	...	...	...	...	J. Yates, J.P.

S T A P F.

Medical Officer of Health.

C. M. BRADLEY, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.

Sanitary Inspector.

A. W. CRAVEN, M.S.I.A.,
Certificate, Meat Inspector.
Certificate, Smoke Inspector.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

F. FORREST.

Clerk.

M. HAWORTH.

Rodent Operator.

T. DUGGAN,
(Appointed, 16th March, 1944.)

1.

42, Wellington St., (St. John's),
BLACKBURN.

August, 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Blackburn Rural District Council.

Gentlemen:

We have pleasure in presenting the sixth and last War-time Annual Report on the work of the Health Department for the year 1944.

As in previous War years, it is not as full as a Peace-time Report.

It is to be hoped that conditions will now return to normal as soon as possible, so that the usual work of the Department can be intensified.

Yours obediently,

C. M. BRADLEY,
Medical Officer of Health.

A. W. CRAVEN,
Sanitary Inspector.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area in Acres.	19,472.
Rateable Value.	£76,537.
Estimated Product of 1d. Rate... ..	£311.
Population, Census 1931... ..	11,232.
Resident Population, mid-1944... ..	
(Registrar-General's estimate.) ...	12,240.
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population.	12.09.
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population.	12.99.

The chief industries are cotton spinning and weaving, paper making, brick making and agriculture.

There were no unusual or excessive mortality or any sickness of special note during the year.

The health of the District continues to be good.

General Provision of Health Services.

The arrangement with the Blackburn Corporation made in previous years continues.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.Water Supply.

There were no extensions to the water mains belonging to the County Borough of Blackburn and Municipal Borough of Darwen, who, being the water authorities supplying the larger proportion of the houses in the Area, are responsible for all chemical tests and the plumb solvency of the water. A large percentage of the houses within the district have a supply to at least one tap within the house. Portions of the district are not quite so satisfactorily served as those covered by the two above Authorities. These are, namely, Mellor, Tockholes and Yate & Pickup Bank, and an urgent need of a good pipe supply is required to the dwelling-houses **and dairy farms situated in these Parishes.** As a temporary measure until such time as the proposed water schemes are carried out, a stand pipe was fitted at the highest point of the Blackburn Corporation main in Barker Lane, Mellor.

Thirteen samples of water were taken and sent for bacteriological analysis during the year; 5 were satisfactory and 8 unsatisfactory. These samples covered the enquiries into 3 sources of contamination, one at the Duke of Wellington Inn, Yate & Pickup Bank, where a good supply was required for the extension to

the premises, one for the Rock Inn, Tockholes, where the supply was highly polluted, and the third at an isolated house in Mellor, served by a spring. To the first two of these a good supply was obtained, but at the third the only possible remedy was to supply the house from the surface water from the roof.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Owing to War conditions, including labour shortage, only ordinary maintenance at the Works has been carried out.

In one part of the Area it was found that 3 cottages were discharging crude sewage into a stream. To eradicate this a properly constructed sewage disposal plant was fitted.

Closet Accommodation.

Privy Middens.	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Pail Closets..	...	...	...	...	...	786.
Dry Ashpits...	...	...	...	...	...	48.
Fresh Water Closets.	...	...	...	...	...	2,586.
Waste Water Closets.	...	...	...	...	...	77.
Moveable Ashbins....	...	...	...	...	...	1,897.
Pail Closets converted to fresh water.	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
closets.	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Number of houses at which moveable Ashbins .	...	...	...	...	...	10.
have been substituted for Ashpits.	...	...	...	...	...	10.

Towards the end of the year the Council put into operation a scheme whereby the owners of houses were paid a grant towards the cost of converting pail closets to water closets. A considerable amount of work was done on this scheme during the year, but no conversions were completed.

Ten new water closets, including adequate urinal facilities, were installed at a factory within the Area, bringing the sanitary accommodation at this factory to the required standard.

As in previous years, the Council continued to purchase dustbins for re-sale, and this arrangement has proved very satisfactory to the general public.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of household refuse, night soil and salvage by the Council's own men was continued throughout the year, even though labour shortages and vehicular troubles were acute.

The following figures summarise the amount of refuse collected

by your own men and the Contractors during the year.

<u>Visits to Premises.</u>	<u>Pans Emptied.</u>	<u>Bins Emptied.</u>	<u>Loads.</u>	<u>T.</u>	<u>C.</u>	<u>Q.</u>
136,935.	48,131.	88,233.	1,830 $\frac{1}{2}$.	3620.	9.	-.

SALVAGE.

The following weights of Salvaged materials were collected and sold during the year.

<u>Material.</u>	<u>Quantity.</u>				<u>Value.</u>		
	<u>T.</u>	<u>C.</u>	<u>Q.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>	<u>£.</u>	<u>s.</u>	<u>d.</u>
Paper.	58.	1.	1.	-.	372.	8.	6.
Ferrous Metals.	21.	1.	-.	-.	29.	17.	3.
Non Ferrous Metals.	4.	-.	14.		6.	18.	5.
Kitchen Waste.	50.	10.	-.	-.	75.	12.	6.
Textiles.	9.	10.	-.	13.	190.	7.	4.
Bones.	6.	2.	3.	-.	17.	11.	7.
Glass Cullet.	7.	5.	-.	-.	5.	8.	9.
Bottles & Jars.	2,427 $\frac{1}{2}$	doz:			75.	1.	6.
Gramophone records.	124 $\frac{3}{4}$	doz:			1.	3.	6 $\frac{1}{2}$.
Zip fasteners.					10.	-.	
Rubber.					9.	-.	
	152.	14.	-.	27.	£ 775.	8.	4 $\frac{1}{2}$.
	2,440 $\frac{1}{4}$	doz:					

Sanitary Inspections.

Number of Premises visited.	...	...	...	645.
Defects or Nuisances found.	...	...	...	26.
Number abated..	...	...	...	25.
Informal Notices served....	...	...	...	26.
Statutory Notices served...	...	...	...	2.

The above table of visits does not include re-visits and routine inspections at which no action was found to be necessary.

Tents, Vans & Sheds.

An inspection of all known tents, vans and sheds, etc., was carried out as required during the year, and all were licensed under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Smoke Abatement.

No action was taken regarding smoke abatement due to the absence of the Bye-laws under Section 104 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

VERMIN INFESTATION.Rodent Control.

During the year the Ministry of Food sought the co-operation of all Local Authorities in a nation-wide campaign for the destruction of rats and mice.

The County Council delegated their powers under the Rats & Mice Destruction Act, 1919, to the Council, who are now in possession of the full powers and responsibilities under this Act, and also under the Infestation Order, 1943. The Ministry of Food, under their scheme, asked each Local Authority for a complete survey and treatment of the District, excluding farms, which are the responsibility of the Lancashire War Agricultural Executive Board, but including the sewerage system and refuse tips. The Council engaged a man, who was trained as Rodent Operator under the Ministry of Food training scheme.

In the meantime a full plan of campaign was drawn up by the Health Department. The Ministry of Food brought the seriousness of the position to the public eye by an intensive propaganda programme in the form of leaflets, posters and newspaper advertisements.

As a trained man, the Operator commenced his duties surveying the Area, especially at the large factories, food premises and the Leeds & Liverpool Canal. The sewerage system and refuse tips within the Area were included in this survey. To help with the classification of the types of infestation the Ministry advised the use of the following headings:-

1. Reservoir Infestation. This classification consists of huge colonies with ample waste food and living quarters, which give rise to surplus population which tend to overflow and infest adjoining properties. Approximate number of rats, over 200.
2. Major Primary Infestation is the classification for large infestations with definite limits to their population, caused by limited food and living quarters. Approximate number of rats, 125.

3. Minor Secondary Infestation takes in small infestations probably intermittent in character and with little real permanence. Approximate number of rats, 30.

In the Area it was found that there existed one reservoir infestation, 3 major primary infestations and 26 minor secondary infestations.

Each infestation was accordingly treated, and the estimated number of rats exterminated was 2,183. This figure includes the number of rats killed in the retreatment of some of the factories and the Canal in the Area.

The retreatment of the reservoir and major infestations was carried out at intervals during the year with the help of the owners of the properties concerned. In no case was there any need to serve Statutory Notice under the Rats & Mice Destruction Act.

Immediately following the treatment of these surface infestations, the treatment of the sewerage system was carried out. The survey had necessitated the borrowing of one of the sewage men and the hiring of a wagon to visit each manhole in order to loosen and lift the covers. To obviate the use of expensive hired haulage, representations to the County Council were successfully made for the use of a Civil Defence vehicle in order that the Operator could reach every manhole with his equipment. In the treatment of the sewers it was necessary to divide the sewerage system into two parts for treatment, each to be treated separately but in conjunction. Considerable difficulties were met with in these treatments, for example, the flooding of the sewers during an extensive rain storm which prevented one day's baiting.

The following tables show the amount of work done and the results thereof.

Sewers.

Number of Manholes.	Number Baited.	Total Pre-bait Takes.	Total Poison Takes.	Number of bodies found.
254.	249.	233.	208.	19.

Sewage Works.

Number of Points.	Number Baited.	Total Pre-bait Takes.	Total Poison Takes.	Number of bodies found.
90.	90.	79.	54.	80.

Bait Base and Poison used, Sausage Rusk and Zinc Phosphide.

Immediately after the completion of the first treatment, there followed another treatment as advised by the Ministry, and the results are shown below.

Sewers.

Number of Manholes.	Number Baited.	Total Pre-bait Takes.	Total Poison Takes.	Number of bodies found.
254.	247.	163.	124.	44.

Sewage Works.

Number of Points.	Number Baited.	Total Pre-bait Takes.	Total Poison Takes.	Number of bodies found.
31.	31.	28.	20.	19.

Bait Base and Poison used, Bread Mash and Barium Carbonate.

The estimated kill after both treatments of the sewerage system was 4,817 rats.

The Council's refuse tips were "spoon gassed" with Cymag and poison baited in the usual manner. In each case quite a number of bodies were found.

A scheme was instituted whereby the large factories of the

Area were circularised to sign contracts for the retreatment of their premises at certain periods of the year. Two of the main factories, both of the major primary infestation classification, signed these contracts, one for retreatment every 3 months and the other for retreatment every 6 months. Two other factories had already contracted with the War Agricultural Executive Committee for the treatment of their premises.

Bed Bug Infestation.

During the year one house was successfully treated for bed bug infestation. The treatment consisted of spraying the property with a proprietary spraying fluid which proved very effective.

Cockroach Infestation.

An infestation of cockroaches at one house in the Area was reported. Due to the inability to purchase pyrethrum powder owing to the War, this complaint was effectively dealt with by the use of a stomach poison consisting of a mixture of sodium flouride and borax.

Infestation of Fleas.

A complaint of fleas was effectively treated with spraying fluid at one house.

HOUSING.

Throughout the Area the housing conditions are fairly good, but some action is required.

Following on the Hobhouse Report on Rural Housing, the County Council appointed a Committee to deal with the subject, who in turn appointed a Technical Sub-Committee, of which your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector are members, with terms of reference as under:-

1. Measure for securing the best standards of housing throughout the County.
2. Arrangements for the comprehensive survey and periodic inspection of rural housing conditions referred to in Chapter VII. of the Third Report of the Rural Housing Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee.
3. The adoption of more uniform standards for demolition, re-conditioning and repairs.

A very comprehensive report was issued, a copy of which has been circularised to each member of the Council.

During the year steps were taken to obtain extra staff for the making of the necessary survey and report, so that each working class house in the District could be put into it's own category, although the survey of the District was not actually commenced.

Statistics.

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.)...	...	46.
Number of inspections made for the purpose...	...	68.
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. ...	...	8.
Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. ...	...	11.
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action. ...	...	8.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Every effort was made to keep the standard of the dairy farms in the Area at a high level, and to this end frequent inspections were made.

Of the 208 samples of milk taken and sent for the Methylene Blue Reductase, B. Coli and Total Bacterial Count tests, 64 failed to pass the tests. As in previous years, the unsatisfactory samples were followed up and advice given to the producer where his methods were wrong. In each case further samples were taken, which generally proved satisfactory.

The experience gained during the year only serves to confirm that most of the unsatisfactory samples were caused by the imperfect sterilisation of utensils and milk being insufficiently cooled, due either to absence or inadequacy of the water supply.

There were also 18 samples taken and sent for the bacteriological

test for Tuberculosis; one of these samples proved to be positive and was immediately dealt with by the Veterinary staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Meat and Other Foods.

All carcasses, including pigs slaughtered by farmers under Ministry of Food licence, were inspected immediately after slaughter. The numbers were:-

<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs.</u>	<u>Swine.</u>
29.	15.	53.	69.

Meat and Offal Surrendered.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Weight.</u> <u>Lbs.</u>
<u>Beef.</u>	
Generalised Tuberculosis.	1,230.
Congenital Tuberculosis.	30.
Necrosis.	18.
Immaturity.	20.
Abscess and Oedema.	40.
<u>Beef Offal.</u>	
Mastitis.	12.
Distomatosis.	50.
Localised Tuberculosis.	209.
Generalised Tuberculosis.	270.
Congenital Tuberculosis.	10.
Necrosis.	18.
Immaturity.	6.
Abscess and Oedema.	100.
<u>Mutton.</u>	
Septicaemia.	20.
<u>Mutton Offal.</u>	
Fatty Degeneration.	5.
Septicaemia.	10.
<u>Pork.</u>	
Moribund.	112.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Weight.</u> <u>Lbs.</u>
<u>Pork Offal.</u>	
Mastitis.	8.
Localised Tuberculosis.	98.
Moribund.	30.
<u>Other Foods Surrendered.</u>	
<u>Dried Apples.</u>	
Fermentation and Decomposition.	64.
<u>American Full Cream Milk.</u>	
Damaged and blown.	104 - 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz: cans.

Prevelance and Control of Infectious Diseases.

No large outbreak of infectious diseases occurred during the year, and the whole of the cases of Dysentery, with the exception of one, were notified from the Institutions within the Area. As in previous years, cases of infectious diseases were removed to either Darwen or Blackburn Infectious Diseases Hospitals, as the Accrington & District Hospital Board, of which the Council is a member, had not at that time obtained the use of a Hospital.

The arrangement regarding Diphtheria Antitoxin being kept at Police Stations throughout the Area for the use of General Practitioners was continued.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.

Disease.	Total cases at all ages.	under 1.	1-2.	2-3.	3-4.	4-5.	5-10.	10-15.	15-20.	20-35.	35-65.	65 & over.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total number of Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	42.			2.	1.	4.	19.	10.	2.	2.	1.	1.	26.	
Enteric Fever.	1.						1.							
Measles.	50.		3.	4.	5.	7.	28.	2.			1.			
Whooping Cough.	11.	1.		3.	1.	1.	5.							
Pneumonia.	30.					2.	5.	9.	2.	6.	4.	2.		6.
Puerperal Pyrexia.	3.									1.	2.			
Polio-encephalitis.	1.									1.			1.	
Dysentery.	144.			1.	1.	2.	7.	9.	24.	50.	30.	20.		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	2.	2.												
Erysipelas.	11.				1.			1.	3.	4.	2.			
Totals.	295.	3.	3.	10.	9.	16.	65.	31.	31.	64.	40.	23.	27.	6.

Tuberculosis: New Cases and Mortality.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non Respira- tory.		Respiratory.		Non Respira- tory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year.								
1-5 years.								1.
5-10 years.								
10-15 years.			1.					
15-20 years.			1.					
20-25 years.	4.	2.						
25-35 years.	1.							
35-45 years.								
45-55 years.								
55-65 years.	1.							
Total.	6.	2.	2.	-.	-.	-.	-.	1.

One case of Tuberculosis was not notified, and this resulted in a death.

Disinfections.

Disease.	No: of disinfections.
Scarlet Fever.	38.
Measles.	3.
Scabies.	3.
Polio-encephalitis.	1.
Dysentery.	1.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

A number of sessions for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria were held at the Lancashire County Council Dental Clinic, Lord Street, Blackburn, and the following table shows the number of children immunised during the year.

Ages-years.	No: of children completely immunised.	No: of children who ceased to attend before completion of Course.	Type of Prophylactic used.
1.	22.	1.	A.P.T. Wellcome.
2.	7.		" "
3.	4.		" "
4.	6.		" "
5.	4.		" "
6.	4.		" "
7.	4.		" "
8.	1.	1.	" "
9.	2.		" "
10.	1.		" "
11 & over.	7.	2.	" "
Total.	62.	4.	

The percentages of the child population of the District which had been immunised against Diphtheria to the end of 1944 were:-

Pre-School age,	58.
School age.	92.

No case of Diphtheria was notified from amongst the immunised children.

